



2/26/19

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I am writing to voice **strong support for HB 2020**. My name is Mike Mercer and am the Owner and Founder of MMercer Consulting. I live in Portland Oregon.

As an Oregon resident and business professional, I want to stress the economic opportunity presented by HB 2020. Beyond the fear tactics presented by few biased opponents, a review of the facts show that in North American jurisdictions with a cap and trade program in place demonstrate GDP growth surpassing those jurisdictions without one, GHG emissions have dropped and costs have not risen anywhere near what was presented by the opposition.

Thanks in part to smart policies like the Clean Fuels Program, Oregon is already home to more than 55,000 clean energy jobs, according to [E2's 2018 Clean Jobs Oregon report](#). And that economic development is [benefiting the entire state](#), with more than 11,000 rural Oregonians employed in the clean energy economy.

**The Clean Energy Jobs bill would send a clear, long-term signal to investors that Oregon's clean energy market is poised for further expansion** and give Oregon a competitive advantage to capture the rising tide of investments and businesses ready to put Oregonians to work in clean energy. As experience in other jurisdictions has shown, the benefits of a Cap-and-Invest program **extend beyond the cleantech sector and can create revenue streams and provide resources to Oregon's farmers, foresters, and ranchers. It is because of these economic opportunities that [78 Oregon business leaders and investors signed a letter in support of HB 2020](#).**

A recent economic analysis commissioned by the Governor's office further demonstrates HB 2020's economic promise – it found that passage of the bill would lead to around 50,000 new jobs in Oregon, a 2.5% growth in Oregon's real GDP, and an increase in Oregonians' household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households.

And while the economic opportunities are great, the consequences of inaction are devastating. If we fail to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will exact enormous costs to Oregon's people, environment, and economy. The hardest hit will be those in our rural areas and disadvantaged urban communities.

To maximize the benefits to Oregonians, the legislature must pass a strong bill that enables linkage to the Western Climate Initiative which at a minimum means adopting a declining cap on emissions to fall at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2035.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. As an Oregon business leader, I urge you to not let politics get in the way of good policy by passing HB 2020.

Warm regards. Mike Mercer